(ग) आयकर विभाग द्वारा बकाया मांगों की वसूली के लिए अनेक कदम उठाये गये हैं जिनमें अर्थदण्ड लगाना, चल एवं अचल संपत्तियों की कुर्की तथा बिक्री, न्यायालयों द्वारा दिए गए स्थगन आदेशों को रद्द कराने के लिए प्रयास शुरू करना, बड़ी धनराशि वाले बकाया मामलों की कड़ी निगरानी और अनिर्णीत अपीलों के शीघ्र निपटान के लिए अपीलीय प्राधिकारियों से अनुरोध करना शामिल हैं।

Proposal to Open Ross Island for Tourism

*209. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open Ross Island for tourism;

(b) if so, whether instructions have been issued to Navy to hand over the Island to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration; and

(c) if not, how Government propose to ensure protection of the historic structures on this Island which according to newspaper reports are in imminent danger of total collapse?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Ross Island is opened for domestic tourism.

(b) and (c) Andaman & Nicobar Adminsitration have indicated their interest in looking after the historical monuments on the Island and are awaiting decision to their request that this Island should be handed over to them.

Reduction in Import and Excise Duty on Synthetic Fibre

*210. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the possibility of reduction of import and excise duty on the synthetic fibre in view of increasing demand for the cotton products abroad; and

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the exports of textiles and garments would received a fillip if internal consumption of cotton based fabrics and garments is reduced by supplementing the use of synthetic fibre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The exports of cotton based fabrics and garments depends on several factors including cost of production, quality preferences, the demand, supply and price trends in the domestic as well as international markets. In the course of the last few years, Government have taken steps to reduce the cost of synthetic fibres. In this year's budget, the import duty on synthetic fibres has been reduced from 65% to 45%. The import duties on raw materials and inputs used in manufacture of synthetic fibres have also been considerably reduced. This is a continuing process. These measures should help in augmenting supply of synthetic fibres at a competitive price, which may result in reduced demand for cotton and cotton based fabrics/garments in the indigenous market. There is no proposal under Government's consideration to reduce the excise duty on synthetic fibres from the existing level of 20%.

Losses due to Inadequate Coal Supply, Transmission and Distribution

*211. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that erratic/irregular supply of coal to power houses causes loss approximately of 10,000 MW per annum;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 10,000 MW loss occurs per annum due to transmission and distribution loss;

(c) whether lack of planned repairs programme is causing a loss of 10,000 MW per annum; and

(d) whether Government are considering to change the above scenario; if so, in what manner?